

Before we get started...

1. Racism is sinful and still alive in America!
 - a. We do not deny its existence!
 1. Racism in WORD
 2. Racism in THOUGHT
 3. Racism in DEED
 4. However, I do disagree with BLM's definition and the resolution of racism
 - b. Even churches are guilty of racism!
 1. White Supremacist theology (Serpent-Seed theology, Ku Klux Klan, Christian Identity)
 2. The PCA, Southern Baptist Convention
2. Your involvement with BLM or P.M. Christianity is not THE litmus test of your faith!
 - a. There are well-meaning Christians on either side
 1. People join/don't join BLM or PM Christianity for different motives...
 2. Location, social-group, awareness (or lack of awareness), occupation, hobbies, etc.
 - b. Christian Liberty is at play here (WCF 20.2)
 1. I am not the Lord of your conscience!
 2. The Bible doesn't PROHIBIT or COMMAND your involvement with them!
 3. You CAN be involved with them insofar as you do not sin, or approve of sin, or redefine sin
3. We are not (strictly) concerned with politics here!
 - a. Our guiding question is "What should a Christian think...?"
 1. How does the Bible apply to Postmodernism, the BLM movement, and P.M. Christianity?
 2. I will try to stay focused on Worldview, but it does have spillover at some point
 - b. My "secret" method...
 1. Get all the facts available concerning a particular event (and be honest with them!)
 2. Distinguish between facts and the interpretation of facts
 3. Frame it all within the totality of God's word
 4. Keep what aligns with God's word, toss what doesn't

Black Lives Matter inc.

1. VERY brief History...
 - a. Started in 2013 with the Trayvon Martin vs. George Zimmerman
 1. His acquittal prompted this response... "BlackLivesMatter"
 - b. Grew substantially at (or in remembrance of) the deaths of →
 1. Most were unarmed
 2. All were black
 3. All could have been avoided
 4. And the church was largely SILENT!
 - c. Somebody NEEDS to stand up...

1. Against- police brutality, white supremacy, violence against blacks
 2. For- centering the oppressed, black lives, building power-localities in black communities
- Troubling Realities...
- Kidnapping & 300 years of enslavement, torture, rape & brutality, share-cropping, medical experimentation, black codes, sharecropping, bans on testifying against whites, Mandatory segregation, bans on jury service & voting, lynching and mob violence, Bans on interracial marriage, white privilege, forced sterilization, employment discrimination, Educational discrimination, biased laws & policing, white flight, mass incarceration, School-to-prison pipeline, disproportionate special education referrals and punishments, Cultural mockery, historical omissions, white silence, Jim Crow Laws
2. What do they do?
 1. Raise awareness
 - a. About police brutality, unfair policing & sentencing
 - b. About "the marginalized" from all manner of walks of life
 - c. Black, LGBTQ, disabled, undocumented, incarcerated, gender non-specific
 2. Host protests against police brutality and white-centrality
 - a. Protests vs. Riots
 - b. The vast majority of protests did not turn into riots
 3. How BLM fits into Postmodernism...
 - a. Narratives (not propositions) convey truth...
 1. Racism is an unavoidable feature of a centralized (white) narrative
 2. Underrepresented people = repressed narratives | Overrepresented people = overrepresented (meta-)narratives
 3. Truth (or "sin") is narrative-driven, and personal in nature
 - b. Experiences (not propositions) convey truth...
 1. Truth (or "sin") is experiential in nature
 2. Experiences with police, schools, interactions, economics, social disadvantage, the family
 3. Even your ability to speak about racism depends upon your (color) narrative
 4. All logical dialogue about racism is itself evidence of systemic racism
 4. BLM and Marxism
 - a. "We are trained Marxists. We are super-versed on... ideological theories."
 1. A political system built upon an Atheistic worldview
 2. Oppressors vs. Oppressed... which necessitates revolution (aka "Critical Theory")
 - b. How these two go together...
 1. Marxism carries much of BLM's Metaphysics (Origins, Substance & Accidents, Understanding of History)
 2. Postmodernism carries much of BLM's Ethics and Epistemology
 3. One problem... they're NOT meant to go together!

What should a Christian think about BLM?

1. Their stance against racism is inadequate
 - a. Two essential tenants of Marxism...
 1. The Marxist Philosophy of Nature (Materialism)
 2. The Marxist Philosophy of History (Dialectical Materialism)
 3. There's as much reason for black lives **matter**ing as black lives **not matter**ing
 - b. Our animosity for racism isn't just preference... it's the Law of God
 1. "In the beginning, God created..." and therefore, black lives ACTUALLY matter.
 2. It's not that they're too strong against racism... they're not strong enough!
2. Their definition of racism is inadequate
 - a. "Power and Privilege"
 1. Racism is a narrative that needs to be overturned
 2. Whiteness vs. Blackness
 3. If you don't agree with it, you have "White Fragility"
 - b. Our definition of racism is rooted in the Law of God...
 1. Racism is a transgression against God's character and human nature
 2. Racism= Hatred + Partiality
 3. Sin looks different to them, and therefore the "savior" will look different as well
3. Their resolution for racism is inadequate
 - a. The best resolutions I have come across...
 1. "How can you **NOT** know what to do?" "We're going to have to figure that out for ourselves."
 2. "Google it." "Expand your point of view" "Strive to internalize a framework of humility."
 3. "Continually educate yourself... [your] learning is not finished."
 4. "Stop saying 'I'm not racist.'" "Confront racist ideas."
"Champion antiracist ideas and policies."
 - b. Our resolution is found in Hymn #307
 1. See also Psalm 130:4, Romans 8:1-7, 1 John 1:9
 2. See also The Center for Biblical Unity, Neil Shenvi Apologetics, Statement on Social Justice and the Gospel

Postmodern Christianity

1. A blanket term for Christian expression that adheres to Postmodern thought
 - a. What they value...
 1. Discovery rather than Logic
 2. Questions rather than Answers
 3. Experiencing God rather than Knowing God
 4. Stories rather than Doctrines
 - b. What they offer...

1. An eclectic approach to worship styles
2. Non-traditional models of hermeneutics and theology (Apostolic Theology)
3. "Relevant" in their styles and motifs

2. What they are known for...

- a. A Christianity without labels
 1. Highly ecumenical and story-driven
 2. Christianity "from the lens of..."
 3. Experience → Exegesis → Reflection → Application
- b. Theology that shows, not tells
 1. Through actions, deeds, multi-sensory art, etc.
 2. Through architecture and design
 3. Through creating space for people to encounter God

3. Examples of Postmodern Christianity...

1. Postmodern theological movements...
 1. Feminist Theology- Re-interpretation of the book of Ruth
 2. LGBTQ Theology- Sexual orientation was not like as it is now; homosexuality → idolatry

2. Postmodern authors...

1. Rob Bell's Love Wins- "Hell is our refusal to trust God's retelling of our story."
2. John Shelby Spong- "When I grew up in the South, I was taught that segregation was the will of God, and the Bible was quoted to prove it. I was taught that women were by nature in inferior to men, and the Bible was quoted to prove it. I was taught that it was okay to hate other religions, and especially the Jews, and the Bible was quoted to prove it."

3. Brian McLaren's Generous Orthodoxy- See quotes on next slide

- "...This book comes to celebrate orthodox doctrine-in-practice, and it comes not to bury doctrinal distinctives but rather to put them in their marginal place." (p. 32)
- "For me the 'fundamentals of the faith' boil down to those given by Jesus: to love God and to love our neighbors." (p. 184)
- Triune love; Unselfish election; Limitless reconciliation; Inspiring grace; Passionate saints (p. 195)

What should a Christian think about PM Christianity?

1. Postmodern Christianity is a weak system of Christian thought!

a. Basic Questions...

1. What is the final arbiter of truth, and how do you know that?
2. How is it that God speaks with authority?
3. How much is this representative of Christianity vs. American culture?

b. Suggestions...

1. Stop being "cool and relevant" and start being biblical
2. Represent original intentions with WAY more integrity
3. More answers, definitions, knowledge, logic, and doctrine
4. Discuss the "exclusive privileges" of Christianity